

Submission to Inquiry - Recent ABC Programming Decisions

I think it is outrageous that ABC management are planning such cuts to TV production, in what it seems is all in the pursuit of ratings. That is not what our ABC is about. I also find this decision worrying for regional Australia, with TV production units regionally about to be decimated.

The loss of Artscape, Art Nation, The Collectors, The New Inventors as well as local sports coverage is wrong. Our ABC should be generating its own quality content, not purchasing content which will without doubt become more light weight. Where will these outsourced programs be produced? All from Sydney based production houses?

How can the ABC consider disbanding the TV arts unit and destroy regional creative production units for prime time, populist content? This is not what we expect from our ABC, we don't want the further erosion of the ABC's distinctiveness.

I choose to watch the ABC because I don't want to watch what is on the commercial channels. I don't want to watch mind numbing "entertainment", some which may as well just be an advertisement, with the amount of product placements they show. I feel we are gradually being "dumbed down", we should be able to enjoy some mental stimulation and some quality drama from our television viewing, and this is what the ABC should offer across a diverse range of programs.

There is nothing comparable to Artscape and Art Nation on other channels.

The Inventors, showcasing Australian innovation, and The Collectors, are real "reality TV" programs and are both extremely popular; it's not the minority who appreciate and tune in to these programs.

The sports covered locally on our ABC are sports that are not covered on the commercial networks.

The ABC should be setting the standard, not following the ratings.

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